

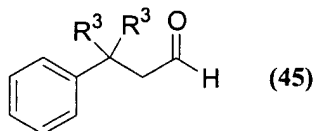
in case of the event that no generic claims are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to examine claims 1-15.

* * *

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the oxidant in step (c) is oxalyl chloride, a tertiary amine and DMSO.
10. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the tertiary amine is DBU or di-*iso*-propylethyl amine.
11. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the crown ether in step (b) is 18-crown-6.
12. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base in step (b) is potassium hexamethyldisilazane.
13. A process according to Claim 8 wherein R⁶ is a trialkylsilylethoxycarbonyl group.
14. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the aldehyde in step (h) is a 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (45) derivative optionally substituted at the 3-position with one or two R³ substituents.



15. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the aldehyde in step (h) is 3-phenylpropionaldehyde.

* * *

Early action on the merits of this case is courteously solicited. Early action toward this end is courteously solicited. The Examiner is kindly encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite any detail of the prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection herewith to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 11, 2003

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